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MISSISSIPPI KITE IN NEBRASKA.*

BY PROFESSOR B. H. BAILEY.

In "Birds of Nebraska," by L. Bruner, R. H. Wolcott and M. H. Swenk, page 50, *Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson) A. O. U. No. 329 is referred to as follows: "While the known range of this kite would bring it within our borders, the record by R. E. Dinges as given in Bruners' 'Notes on Nebraska Birds' is very likely an error."

The A. O. U. check list gives its range as "Lower Austral Zone from Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Southern Indiana, and South Carolina, South to Texas and Florida; winters in Florida, Southern Texas and South rarely to Guatemala; accidental in Colorado, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania."

While in Omaha, Neb., the writer purchased for the Coe College Museum a specimen of this species which was in a local taxidermist's shop, and which was shot by the man from whom the bird was purchased.

The kite was killed a few miles south of Omaha in November, 1912, and although the sex was not determined at the time it was mounted, the following description from the work by N. S. Goss, "History of the Birds of Kansas," is so in accord with the specimen in hand as to leave no doubt that this bird is a young female. "Head, neck and lower parts white with a yellowish tinge; this most perceptible on the tibiae. Each feather with a median ovate spot of black-

* Read before Iowa Academy of Science, May 1st, 1915.

ish brown, more reddish on the lower parts. The chin, throat, and a broad superciliary stripe, are immaculate white. Lower tail coverts each with a median acuminate spot of rusty, the shafts black. Upper parts brownish black; wing coverts, scapulars and interscapulars, feathers of the rump, and the upper tail coverts, narrowly bordered with ochraceous white, and with concealed quadrate spots of the same; primary coverts, secondaries and primaries sharply bordered terminally with pure white. Tail black (faintly whitish at tip) with three (exposed) obscure bands of a more slaty tint, this changing to white on the inner webs, in the form of angular spots forming the bands. Lining of wing pale ochraceous, transversely spotted with rusty rufous; under primary coverts with transverse spots of white." "Iris brownish red, legs and feet brownish."

The following measurements were taken from the mounted specimen secured from Nebraska:

Wing, $11\frac{7}{8}$ in. 200 mm.

Tail, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. 171 mm.

Tarsus, 1.25 in. 33 mm.

Bill without cere, $\frac{5}{8}$ in. 15 mm.

This is believed to be the first record of *Ictinia mississippiensis* authenticated by a specimen taken in Nebraska.

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